

Beehive Church  
Mobile, Alabama  
Mobile Co

ALA  
HABS No. 23-26

HABS  
ALA,  
49-MOB, ,  
28-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer  
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

OLD BEEHIVE CHURCH  
(FRANKLIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH)

South West corner St. Michael & Franklin Sts.  
Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama.

ALA  
HABS  
ALA,  
49-MOBI,  
28-

Ownership:

Present Owner: Franklin St. Baptist Church, (Colored)

Previous Owners: Thomas Price. 1798.  
William E. Kennedy & heirs. 1813.  
John McRae & Trustees for church  
site. 1824.  
Adam Glass & M. H. Spira. 1891  
Nathan Jones & eight other negro  
trustees. 1892.

Date of Erection : 1849.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal  
Church (White)

Present Condition: Fair state of preservation.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Greek Revival; two story brick;  
tower on front.

Other Existing Records:

Additional Data: The original frame building was erected on this site in the year of 1828 - by J. R. Lambeth, Methodist Missionary.

In the year 1849 this building was replaced by present brick building, erected by Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal Church South (white).

For the past sixteen years this building has been owned and used by the negroes as their church, Rev. N. J. Robinson, Pastor.

Certificate of Incorporation dated February 6, 1904 - changed the name of this church to (Franklin Street Baptist Church). This is the name used now, 1936. However it is locally known as the Beehive Church.

NOTICE: From The Mobile Daily Advertiser, March 17, 1849.  
By Francois Ludgere Diard.

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"The new Methodist Church on Franklin and St. Michael Streets is a plain, fine and substantial building. The exterior is of solid brick masonry, and makes a handsome appearance. Our purpose, however, in this notice is not to give a general description of this edifice, for its interior is yet unfinished, except the basement, and it is this to which we would direct public attention. This portion is now finished, and fitted up for evening worship; ect.,.. ect.,."

The main room will be lighted with gas, and will be the finest room of its kind in the city of Mobile for public worship. We understand it will be opened on Sunday morning, (March 18, 1849), and Divine worship will be commenced at eleven o'clock A. M., when the room will be consecrated to the purposes for which it was designed. At the close of the morning service a collection will be taken up to defray the expenses of completing the room, furnishing gas pipes, etc.,"

Because of the swarming to the new church just erected, by people not only of the Methodist faith, but of other Protestant religions, the church was given the title or soubriquet of "The Beehive Church."

Source of Material: Abstract and Probate Court Records.  
Mobile, Alabama.  
Address of Rev. J. W. Shoaff, D. D.  
March 3, 1895. Mobile Public Library.  
Mobile, Alabama.  
( Mobile Daily Advertiser, March 3, 1849.  
Mobile, Alabama.  
(By Francis L. Diard)

Compiled by: Katherine Floyd.  
Auburn, Alabama.  
Approved: E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer,  
H.A.B.S. Auburn, Alabama.  
Date: 11- 30-1936.